

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

CHARLESTON DIVISION

KEITH LOWE,

Plaintiff,

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:25-cv-00272

SUPERINTENDENT JOHN FRAME, et al.,

Defendants.

SCHEDULING ORDER

The Court has reviewed the parties' Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) report. The Scheduling Conference previously scheduled for July 11, 2025, is **CANCELED**.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b) and Local Rule of Civil Procedure 16.1(e), it is accordingly **ORDERED** that this case shall proceed as follows:

1. **Amendments and Joinder**: The amendment of any pleading and the joinder of any party shall be completed no later than **July 30, 2025**.

2. **Discovery**: The parties shall serve all discovery requests by **November 13, 2025**, and complete all depositions by **January 16, 2026**. The last date to complete depositions shall be the "discovery completion date" by which all discovery, including disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1), (2), and (b)(5), but not disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3), shall be completed. Pursuant to Local Rule 26.1(c), the Court adopts and approves the agreements of the parties with respect to limitations on discovery

(numbers of interrogatories, requests for admissions, and depositions).

3. **Expert Witnesses:** The party bearing the burden of proof on an issue shall make the disclosures of information required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A) and (B) for that issue to all other parties or their counsel no later than **November 17, 2025**. The party not bearing the burden of proof on an issue shall make the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A) and (B) for that issue to all other parties or their counsel no later than **December 17, 2025**. All parties shall provide the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A) and (B) if the evidence is intended solely to contradict or rebut evidence on the same issue identified by another party under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B), no later than **January 5, 2026**.

4. **Summary Judgment and Other Dispositive Motions:** All dispositive motions, except those under Rule 12(b), together with depositions, admissions, documents, affidavits, or other such matter in support thereof, shall be filed and served by **February 5, 2026**, with responses due by **February 19, 2026**, and replies due by **February 26, 2026**. Any motion must be supported by a memorandum of law at the time filed or submitted. If any motion, memorandum in support, response, or reply, inclusive of all attachments, exceeds fifty (50) pages in length, a hard copy of such materials shall be submitted to the presiding District Judge at the time of filing.

5. **Settlement Meeting:** No later than **April 8, 2026**, the parties and their lead trial counsel shall meet and conduct negotiations looking toward the settlement of the action, and counsel will be prepared at the pretrial conference to certify that they have done so. Counsel for the plaintiff shall take the initiative in scheduling the settlement meeting, and all other counsel shall cooperate to effect such negotiations. Any mediation scheduled by the parties must be concluded no later than the settlement meeting date. If the action is not settled during the

settlement meeting or mediation session, and if there is no order or stipulation to the contrary, counsel and unrepresented parties shall make all Rule 26(a)(3) disclosures at the conclusion of the meeting or session.

6. **Motions in Limine:** All motions in limine shall be filed and served by **April 15, 2026**, with responses due by **April 22, 2026**.

7. **Proposed Integrated Pretrial Order:** The plaintiff portion of the proposed integrated pretrial order shall be submitted to opposing counsel by **April 13, 2026**, who shall then prepare and complete the opposing portion thereof and submit the proposed integrated pretrial order, signed by all counsel, to the Court for entry no later than **April 20, 2026**. The proposed integrated pretrial order, signed by all counsel and unrepresented parties, shall set forth the matters listed in Local Rule of Civil Procedure 16.7(b).

8. **Pretrial Conference:** A pretrial conference shall be held at **10:00 a.m. on May 14, 2026**, at which lead trial counsel shall appear fully prepared to discuss all aspects of the case. Individuals with full authority to settle the case for each party shall be present **in person**.

9. **Proposed Charges to the Jury:** The original and one copy of proposed jury instructions, numbered and in charge form, on substantive theories of recovery or defense, on damages and on evidentiary matters peculiar to the case, and special interrogatories, if any be appropriate to the case, requested by counsel for submission to the jury, together with a verdict form, shall be exchanged by counsel and submitted to the presiding District Judge by **May 19, 2026**. On that same date, the proposed jury instructions and verdict form shall also be submitted to the presiding District Judge on compact disc saved in Word compatible format or emailed to chambers according to instructions provided by the Court's law clerk.

10. **Final Settlement Conference:** A final settlement conference, attended by all unrepresented parties and by lead trial counsel for each represented party, shall be held at **10:00 a.m. on May 14, 2026**, or as earlier directed by the Court. Individuals with full authority to settle the case for each party shall be present **in person**.

11. **Trial:** Trial of this action shall be held at **9:00 a.m. on May 26, 2026**, before the undersigned. Trial will commence upon completion of jury selection in any other case scheduled for this date. This case is presently the first case on the trial docket for that week.

12. **Failure to Appear or Negotiate:** Should lead trial counsel fail to appear at any pre-trial conference or otherwise fail to meet and confer in good faith with opposing counsel as required in paragraph 5 above, or should a party or his authorized representative fail to appear or be available at any conference or otherwise fail to meet and confer in good faith as required in paragraph 5 above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed, including, but not limited to, sanctions by way of imposition of attorney fees against the attorney and/or his client pursuant to Fed R Civ P Rule 16(f).

All proceedings shall be held by the Court at the Robert C. Byrd United States Courthouse, 300 Virginia Street, East, Charleston West Virginia.

The dates listed above are summarized in the following table:

| Deadline | Date |
|---|-------------|
| Amending the pleadings or joining parties | 07/30/2025 |
| Last date to serve discovery requests | 11/13/2025 |
| Opening Rule 26 expert disclosures | 11/17/2025 |
| Responsive Rule 26 expert disclosures | 12/17/2025 |
| Rebuttal Rule 26 expert disclosure | 01/05/2026 |
| Discovery to close | 01/16/2026 |

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|---|---------------------|
| Dispositive motions deadline | 02/05/2026 |
| Response to dispositive motion | 02/19/2026 |
| Reply to response to dispositive motion | 02/26/2026 |
| Settlement meeting | 04/08/2026 |
| Motion in limine deadline | 04/15/2026 |
| Responses for motions in limine | 04/22/2026 |
| Proposed pretrial order to defendant | 04/13/2026 |
| Integrated pretrial order | 04/20/2026 |
| Pretrial conference | 05/14/2026 10:00 AM |
| Proposed jury charge | 05/19/2026 |
| Final settlement conference | 05/14/2026 10:00 AM |
| Trial | 05/26/2026 9:00 AM |

IT IS SO ORDERED.

The Court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to send a copy of this Order to counsel of record and any unrepresented party.

ENTER: July 8, 2025



THOMAS E. JOHNSTON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE